

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

U.S. Appln. No. 09/576,957

27. (Amended) The apparatus for coating a masking agent as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 20 [to 26], wherein a wiping material (16) comprising resin fiber soaked with an organic solvent and/or water is disposed downstream of the scraper.

28. (Amended) The apparatus for coating a masking agent as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 20 [to 27], wherein means (14) for feeding the masking agent comprises a continuous quantity dispenser and a tubular member.

**REMARKS**

The claim amendments provided herein are provided in order to eliminate potential informalities with regard to multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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